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Voices

Promoting diversity in the University community and beyond...

Making Peace, Not War

By Dr. B

When I was in graduate school at Boston University I had the opportunity to take classes with the former Dean, Dr. Walter George Muelder. At the time he was elderly; earlier in his life he had the opportunity to interact with the pacifist, socialist, and six time presidential candidate, Norman Thomas. In a manner of speaking, I was greatly enamored by this handsome, intelligent, and committed soul. Hence, it should come as no surprise that I was excited to come across the recent book by his great granddaughter, Louisa Thomas. The name of the book is, *Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two Pacifists, One Family—A Test of Will and Faith in World War I!*

I had heard of Evan Thomas, Norman's younger brother and fellow pacifist, but I was not aware that he had two other brothers who fought in the First World War. It has been a joy to learn about them as well—even though my heart remains tied to Muelder's bud and fellow foot soldier in the peace army. Louisa, who has become a sort of kindred spirit, also chooses to focus centrally on her direct ancestor.

In 1950, my mentor and professor wrote an article called "Why I believe in passivism." In his honor,

in the year 2000, I wrote a piece for the Alumni Magazine at B.U. of the same title. Muelder, who was still alive then (he died in 2004), was thrilled to see my piece, for I had not told him ahead of time. He was pleasantly surprised, since I had written my dissertation on his Christian social ethics and criticized his pacifist faith. He told me it warmed his insides that I actually shared his belief in the peaceful resolution of international conflict.

As we reflect on the tenth anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11, we cannot help but to think of the vio-

"As we reflect on the tenth anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11, we cannot help but to think of the violence of terrorism, warfare, insurrection, political corruption, and economic exploitation."

lence of terrorism, warfare, insurrection, political corruption, and economic exploitation. Most people who give serious thought to the resolution of international conflict are partial or whole advocates of or signatories to the Just War Theory. This theory is divided into two major parts: decisions to make and



Ms. Louisa Thomas

actions to take at the brink of war; and proper behavior in the midst of warfare. The current president and the past three presidents have all utilized the Just War Theory to manipulate the minds of the general public to support offensive attacks and the expansion of theaters of war. A couple have even employed the help of the theory to justify the denial of Habius Corpus at Guantanamo and water boarding and other means of torture. Consequently, they have used a method designed to put countries on the same plane when dealing with issues between and among nations.

This is madness! Why? Because it contradicts the very purpose of having a common compass in determining fair and proportional vengeance. Now of course I use the word "vengeance" deliberately for one of the tenants of the Just War is that it is not entered into out of vengeance or sheer punishment. Respect for international law must always maintain during warfare on the battlefield and in the decision

Continued on pg. 3

Dean of Students Jon Buse

By Camelia Rubalcada

I had the great pleasure of interviewing the Dean of Students, Jon Buse, this past week. According to the Dean's website, Buse's day consist of assisting students and families in times of crisis or concern, providing assistance to faculty in managing issues, administering the Student Conduct Code, and overseeing the coordination of orientation. Being the Dean of Students is demanding and time-consuming!

Buse began his journey at UNI as a student in 1987. After working in Admissions for several years, he became the Dean of Students in 2007. Buse will be leaving his position soon to embark on a new and exciting opportunity at Kirkwood Community College as their Dean of Students.



Camelia and Jon Buse pose for a picture after the interview.

What follows is my interview with the Dean, who shares his personal side.

1. What is your idea of perfect relaxation?

Playing my guitar outside on my deck would be perfect relaxation. I have a wooded patio outside my house and it is peaceful.

2. What is the one thing you fear the most?

Heights.

3. What would be the most valuable lesson in life that you learned?

To make the most of every day.

4. What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who talk while other people are talking.

5. What is your favorite thing about being married?

I think really just having someone who I completely trust to share all of my experiences with.

6. What is your greatest regret?

Probably not taking opportunities like study abroad and traveling without any real responsibilities when I was younger.

7. What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Being a husband and a father.

8. Who is the one person you look up to?

My brother.

9. What has been the most embarrassing moment in your life?

I started my sister's mattress on fire when I was young. The fire department had to come and put out the fire; that was pretty embarrassing.

10. What is the wildest thing you have ever done in your life?

I could never tell you that.

From the staff at the CME we want to wish you the BEST of LUCK in your new adventure.



Jon Buse

11. If you could choose to have dinner with 5 people (real or fiction), who would you invite?

Dad, because he died when I was in college and I would love to catch up with him; Jimmy Hendricks; Obama; Jesus Christ; and Winston Churchill.

12. Who is the first person you call when you are having a bad day?

My spouse.

13. What is your favorite thing to eat on Thanksgiving?

Apple pie.

14. What do you like most about Thanksgiving?

Eating, getting together with my family.

15. What is the one thing that you will miss most about your co-workers at UNI?

I will miss so many things. I can't limit it to just one thing. It is the professionalism and their attitudes of putting students' success first. This place is pretty special. I will miss their fun loving attitudes; they enjoy being here. I will also miss the support they give me.

Marian Wright Edelman

By Umaru Balde

Marian Wright Edelman is an advocate for disadvantaged Americans and is the president of the Children's Defense Fund. Edelman is a voice for poor, minority children and families-not only in the United States, but also in the entire world. She advocates for equal opportunity as well as safety and quality of education for all children. Hosted by the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Northern Iowa on Friday, October 14, 2011, Edelman spoke to a diverse audience of students, faculty, and members of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls community.

In the presence of the president of UNI, Edelman spoke about the high rate of poverty among the minority community in the United States. "We have a child dropping out of school every ten seconds in a school day, and over 80% of our Black and Latino children are not reading at a great level," she stated. Edelman also expressed her happi-

ness for the new memorial statue of her role model, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coming from West Africa, I was surprised to hear that so many chil-

"We need to look at who we are as people and build on what we know, and we need to change from how we can afford to eliminate poverty, to how we can afford not to,"

dren in the United States have such a poor reading ability. I would understand the high level of poverty among minorities in this country, but not such a poor condition of education because America is known to have one of the best educational systems in the world and is a country where every citizen has the opportunity to get an education.

Edelman also mentioned that, "Every 36 seconds a child is neglected or abused in this country." This was shocking news to me: this

statistic is an extremely high rate of child abuse in a country which is considered to be the top advocate for democracy and human rights. More than 40 million people in the United States live below the poverty line; 16 million are children and more than five million are children under the age of five.

Edelman also mentioned some things that she thinks America needs to do in order to eliminate, or at least reduce, poverty. "We need to look at who we are as people and build on what we know, and we need to change from how we can afford to eliminate poverty, to how we can afford not to," she said.

I was very inspired by Mrs. Edelman's speech. It was very interesting to me, especially because of her focus on reducing poverty and developing children which is a dream that I also have. I would like one day to be as successful as Marian Wright Edelman. I hope the Center for Multicultural Education will continue to bring speakers like Edelman to speak at UNI and more often.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE...

making board rooms. Whereas, I respect the intention of just war theorists to make the decision to go to war and the ways to conduct war, I do not agree with its premise: war is a necessary evil because humans are sinful and limited in their reasoning faculties and violence is ultimately the only surefire way to stem these melodies to the human spirit. Contrariwise, pacifism expresses an optimism in the possibilities of the human despite our finite limited con-

dition. So, the only redeeming quality regarding the just war theory is a semiconscious salvo to the pacifist faith: war must be the last resort.

Louisa, who is not herself a pacifist, like her great grandfather was, nevertheless cradles his position as an authentic posture and encourages pacifists to keep up the good work so that those hawkish for war can be perennially challenged. Ms. Thomas has loads of company in her non-pacifist perspective however on November 10, she will be outnum-

bered as we sit on the panel and prized mostly of my fellow travelers! Thomas comes as a guest of the Center for Multicultural Education as one of the featured speakers in the University wide series, "Reaching for Higher Ground: Community after 9/11."

President of UNI African Union

By **Mukulika Vashistha**

Attention towards the diversity on campus made me interested in interviewing the current president of the African Union (A.U.), Esthella Kamara. She was elected as president approximately two months ago. She told me many things about the African Union, the participation of its members in different events, and also her views about diversity on campus. The African Union was started in 2005 and currently has 20 members who are actively involved in different activities and meetings. The organization welcomes everyone who comes to the region from Africa. They contribute to making sure students have a place to stay and friends with whom to socialize.

Esthella feels great to be a part of the A.U. She feels that it is like a heart: full of passion. Coordinating activities, getting everyone motivated and involved, and promoting the organization are what she enjoys the most. Esthella is working towards the mission of: "Promoting diversity. Portraying Africa as it is and not how it is portrayed by media and making UNI students from other cultural background recognize who Africans are and what they do." She has had people ask her if she has ever seen a

lion, suggesting she lives in the jungle. It is surprising for them when she says she has never even seen an elephant, also. She wants people to have a better understanding of Africa and would also like them to embrace the cultures.

A.U. is very diverse i.e., not all its members are Africans. So, she wants members to gain cultural exposure and a learning experience that is different from their own culture. Even though most of the people are from Africa, they still have so many different countries with various languages and food.

Currently A.U. is involved with a lot of activities on campus. This past Homecoming, they had a painting displayed at Maucker Union and at the Panther Festival. They are also working on t-shirts and recently volunteered for "Make a Difference Day" in October. Further ahead, A.U. is going to organize a Cultural Night with fun, food, and dancing. They also started an event last year in conjunction with the Hispanic/Latino Student Union and Black Student Union in which participants will have a table with different food and information about where the students are from, which will allow them to walk around and ask questions. Since members of A.U. are still not as actively involved

as they should be, Esthella wants to focus on gaining more involvement through advertising in order to increase A.U. membership. The most surprising thing to me was that Esthella said that she is not pleased with diversity on campus. She feels that there is not enough collaboration between the CME (Center for Multicultural Education) and the Student Government. According to her, the Student Government should include diversity in the forefront of their agenda. Esthella feels this is not present currently.



Esthella Kamara, President of African Union.

Upcoming Lectures



Louisa Thomas

"Peaceful Resolution of International Conflict"

Thursday, November 10, 2011

7:00 p.m. @ CME

Q&A and Panel Discussion to follow

The CME is looking for students to contribute to the Voices Newsletter. Contact the CME for more information!



Center for Multicultural Education

Do you feel there is a lack of diversity among staff in campus offices? Would you keep it as it is or change it? Explain why.



We are asking students to write about diversity and get a chance to win one of two amazing prizes!



Submit articles by 12/02/2011 to either:

Kailee Becker

kaileeb@uni.edu

Camelia Rubalcada

rubalcac@uni.edu

Or

CME on the upper level in Maucker Union

Contact phone: 319-273-2250

Trivia:

What year did the CME move from the house to Maucker Union?

First one to answer wins a snickers bar!

Competition:

We're looking for students to tell us their best "I am..." tagline related to the CME.

First place— sandwich combo
Second place— energy drink
Third place— snickers bar

****Please note: we cannot guarantee your tagline will be used!**

***Keep an eye out for more trivia and competitions to come!**

Center for Multicultural Education

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Our Mission

We foster success in racial and ethnic minority students, contribute to the cultural competence of all students, and promote an appreciation of diversity in the University Community.

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We are also on Facebook and Twitter! Find Us!